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PERICRANIUM. *n. s.* [from *περι* and *cranium*; *pericrâne*, Fr.] The *pericranium* is the membrane that covers the skull: it is a very thin and nervous membrane of an exquisite sense, such as covers immediately not only the cranium, but all the bones of the body, except the teeth; for which reason it is also called the *periosteum*. *Quincy.*
Having divided the *pericranium*, I saw a fissure running the whole length of the wound. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
PERICULOUS. *adj.* [*periculosus*, Lat.] Dangerous; jeopardous; hazardous. A word not in use.
As the moon every seventh day arriveth unto a contrary sign, so Saturn, which remaineth about as many years in one sign, and holdeth the same consideration in years as the moon in days, doth cause these *periculosus* periods. *Brown.*
PERIEGEY. *n. s.* [*περι* and *εγειν*] Needles caution in an operation; unnecessary diligence.
PERIGEUM. *n. s.* [*περι* and *γειν*; *perigée*, Fr.] Is a point in the heavens, wherein a planet is said to be in its nearest distance possible from the earth. *Harris.*
By the proportion of its motion, it was at the creation, at the beginning of Aries, and the *perigeum* or nearest point in Libra. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PERIHELUM. *n. s.* [*περι* and *ήλιος*; *perihelie*, Fr.] Is that point of a planet's orbit, wherein it is nearest the sun. *Harris.*
Sir Isaac Newton has made it probable, that the comet, which appeared in 1680, by approaching to the sun in its *perihelium*, acquired such a degree of heat, as to be 50000 years a cooling. *Cheyne's Philosophical Principles.*
PERIL. *n. s.* [*peril*, Fr. *perikel*, Dutch; *periculum*, Lat.]
1. Danger; hazard; jeopardy.
Dear Pyrocles, be liberal unto me of those things, which have made you indeed precious to the world, and now doubt not to tell of your *perils*. *Sidney, b. ii.*
How many *perils* do unfold
The righteous man to make him daily fall. *Fairy Queen.*
In the act what *perils* shall we find,
If either place, or time, or other course,
Cause us to alter th' order now assign'd. *Daniel.*
The love and pious duty which you pay,
Have pass'd the *perils* of so hard a way. *Dryden.*
Strong, healthy and young people are more in *peril* by pestilential fevers, than the weak and old. *Arbutnot.*
2. Denunciation; danger denounced.
I told her,
On your displeasure's *peril*,
She should not visit you. *Shakespeare, Winter's Tale.*
PERILOUS. *adj.* [*perileus*, Fr. from *peril*.]
1. Dangerous; hazardous; full of danger.
Alterations in the service of God, for that they impair the credit of religion, are therefore *perilous* in common-weals, which have no continuance longer than religion hath all reverence done unto it. *Hooker, b. v. f. 2.*
Her guard is chastity,
She that has that is clad in compleat steel,
And like a quiver'd nymph with arrows keen
May trace huge forests and unharbour'd heaths,
Infamous hills and sandy *perilous* wilds. *Milton.*
Dictate propitious to my duteous ear,
What arts can captivate the changeful fear:
For *perilous* th' affair, unheard the toil
T' elude the preference of a God by guile. *Pope.*
Into the *perilous* flood
Bear fearless. *Thomson.*
2. It is used by way of emphasis, or ludicrous exaggeration of any thing bad.
Thus was th' accomplish'd squire endu'd
With gifts and knowledge *perilous* threwd. *Hudibras.*
3. Smart; witty. In this sense it is, I think, only applied to children, and probably obtained its signification from the notion, that children eminent for wit, do not live; a witty boy was therefore a *perilous* boy, or a boy in danger. It is vulgarly *perilous*.
'Tis a *perilous* boy,
Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable;
He's all the mother's from the top to toe. *Shakespeare.*
PERILOUSLY. *adv.* [from *perilous*.] Dangerously.
PERILOUSNESS. *n. s.* [from *perilous*.] Dangeroufness.
PERIMETER. *n. s.* [*περι* and *μετρον*; *perimetre*, Fr.] The compass or sum of all the sides which bound any figure of what kind soever, whether rectilinear or mixed.
By compressing the glasses still more, the diameter of this ring would increase, and the breadth of its orbit or *perimeter* decrease, until another new colour emerged in the centre of the last. *Newton's Opticks.*
PERIOD. *n. s.* [*periode*, Fr. *περιόδος*.]
1. A circuit.
2. Time in which any thing is performed, so as to begin again in the same manner.
Tell thee, that the sun is fixed in the centre, that the earth with all the planets roll round the sun in their several *periods*; they cannot admit a syllable of this new doctrine. *Watts.*

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3. A stated number of years; a round of time, at the end of which the things comprised within the calculation shall return to the state in which they were at beginning.
A cycle or *period* is an account of years that has a beginning and end too, and then begins again as often as it ends. *Holder on Time.*
We stile a lesser space a cycle, and a greater by the name of *period*; and you may not improperly call the beginning of a large *period* the epocha thereof. *Holder on Time.*
4. The end or conclusion.
If my death might make this island happy,
And prove the *period* of their tyranny,
I would expend it with all willingness;
But mine is made the prologue to their play. *Shakespeare.*
There is nothing so secret that shall not be brought to light within the compass of our world; whatsoever concerns this sublunary world in the whole extent of its duration, from the chaos to the last *period*. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
What anxious moments pass between
The birth of plots and their last fatal *periods*.
Oh! 'tis a dreadful interval of time. *Addison.*
5. The state at which any thing terminates.
Beauty's empires, like to greater states,
Have certain *periods* set, and hidden fates.
Light-converging stones must be set in the sun before they retain light, and the light will appear greater or lesser, until they come to their utmost *period*. *Digby.*
6. Length of duration.
Some experiment would be made how by art to make plants more lasting than their ordinary *period*; as to make a stalk of wheat last a whole year. *Bacon's Natural History.*
7. A complete sentence from one full stop to another.
Periods are beautiful, when they are not too long: for so they have their strength too as in a pike or javelin. *B. Johnson.*
Is this the confidence you gave me,
Lean on it safely, not a *period*
Shall be unaid for me. *Milton.*
Syllogism is made use of to discover a fallacy, cunningly wrap up in a smooth *period*. *Locke.*
For the assistance of weak memories, the first words of every *period* in every page may be written in distinct colours. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
From the tongue
Th' unfinished *period* falls. *Thomson's Spring.*
To *PERIOD*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To put an end to. A bad word.
Your letter he desires
To those have shut him up, which failing to him,
Periods his comfort. *Shakespeare, Timon of Athens.*
PERIODICAL. *adj.* [*periodique*, Fr. from *period*.]
1. Circular; making a circuit; making a revolution.
Was the earth's *periodical* motion always in the same plane with that of the diurnal, we should miss of those kindly increases of day and night. *Darwin.*
Four moons perpetually roll round the planet Jupiter, and are carried along with him in his *periodical* circuit round the sun. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
2. Happening by revolution at some stated time.
Astrological undertakers would raise men out of some stony soil, impregnated with the influence of the stars upon some remarkable and *periodical* conjunctions. *Bentley.*
3. Regular; performing some action at stated times.
The confusion of mountains and hollows furnished me with a probable reason for those *periodical* fountains in Switzerland, which flow only at such particular hours of the day. *Addison.*
4. Relating to periods or revolutions.
It is implicitly denied by Aristotle in his politics, in that discourse against Plato, who measured the vicissitude and mutation of states by a *periodical* fatality of number. *Brown.*
PERIODICALLY. *adv.* [from *periodical*.] At stated periods.
The three tides ought to be understood of the space of the night and day, and then there will be a regular flux and reflux thrice in that time every eight hours *periodically*. *Broom.*
PERIOSTEUM. *n. s.* [*περι* and *στέον*; *perioste*, Fr.] All the bones are covered with a very sensible membrane, called the *periosteum*. *Cheyne's Philosophical Principles.*
PERIPHERY. *n. s.* [*περι* and *φειν*; *peripherie*, Fr.] Circumference.
Neither is this sole vital faculty sufficient to exterminate noxious humours to the *periphery* or outward parts. *Harvey.*
To *PERIPHERY*. *v. a.* [*periphraze*, Fr.] To express one word by many; to express by circumlocution.
PERIPHRASTIC. *n. s.* [*περιφραστικ*; *periphraze*, Fr.] Circumlocution; use of many words to express the sense of one; as, for death, we may say, the loss of life.
They make the gates of Thebes and the mouths of this river a constant *periphraze* for this number seven. *Brown.*
She contains all bliss,
And makes the world but her *periphraze*. *Cleveland.*
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They shew their learning uselessly, and make a long *periphraze* on every word of the book they explain. *Watts.*
The *periphraze* and circumlocutions, by which Homer expresses the single act of dying, have supplied succeeding poets with all their manners of phrasing it. *Pope.*
PERIPHRASTICAL. *adj.* [from *periphraze*.] Circumlocutory; expressing the sense of one word in many.
PERIPNEUMONY. *n. s.* [*περι* and *πνευμων*; *peripneumonie*, Fr.] An inflammation of the lungs.
Lungs oft imbibing phlegmatick and melancholick humours, are now and then deprehended schirous, by distipation of the subtiler parts, and lapidification of the grosser that remain, or may be left indurated, through the grois reliques of *peripneumonia* or inflammation of the lungs. *Harvey.*
A *peripneumony* is the last fatal symptom of every dyscæ; for no body dies without a stagnation of the blood in the lungs, which is the total extinction of breath. *Arbutnot.*
To *PERISH*. *v. n.* [*perir*, Fr. *perire*, Lat.]
1. To die; to be destroyed; to be lost; to come to nothing.
I burn, I pine, I *perish*. *Shakespeare.*
If I achieve not this young modest girl,
If I have seen any *perish* for want of cloathing, then let mine arm fall from my shoulder-blade. *Job xxxi. 29.*
He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from *perishing* by the sword. *Job xxxiii. 18.*
They *perish* quickly from off the good land. *Deut. xi. 18.*
I *perish* with hunger. *Luke xv. 17.*
The sick, when their case comes to be thought desperate, are carried out and laid on the earth to *perish* without assistance or pity. *Locke.*
Characters drawn on dust, that the first breath of wind effaces, are altogether as useful as the thoughts of a soul that *perish* in thinking. *Locke.*
Exposing their children, and leaving them in the fields to *perish* by want, has been the practice. *Locke.*
Still when the lust of tyrant pow'r succeeds,
Some Athens *perishes*, or some Tully bleeds. *Pope.*
In the Iliad, the anger of Achilles had caused the death of so many Grecians; and in the Odyssey, the subjects *perished* through their own fault. *Pope.*
2. To be in a perpetual state of decay.
Duration, and time which is a part of it, is the idea we have of *perishing* distance, of which no two parts exist together, but follow in succession; as expansion is the idea of lasting distance, all whole parts exist together. *Locke.*
3. To be lost eternally.
These, as natural brute beasts made to be destroyed, speak evil of the things they understand not, and shall utterly *perish*. *2 Peter ii. 12.*
O suffer me not to *perish* in my sins, Lord carest thou not that I *perish*, who wilt that all should be saved, and that none should *perish*. *Moreton's Daily Exercise.*
To *PERISH*. *v. a.* To destroy; to decay. Not in use.
The splitting rocks cow'r'd in the sinking sands,
And would not dash me with their ragged sides;
Because thy flinty heart, more hard than they,
Might in thy palace *perish* Margaret. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*
Rite, prepar'd in black, to mourn thy *perish'd* lord. *Dryden.*
He was so reserved, that he would impart his secrets to nobody; whereupon this clovenis did a little *perish* his understandings. *Collier on Friendship.*
Familiar now with grief your ears refrain,
And in the publick woe forget your own,
You weep not for a *perish'd* lord alone. *Pope.*
PERISHABLE. *adj.* [from *perish*.] Liable to perish; subject to decay; of short duration.
We derogate from his eternal power to ascribe to them the same dominion over our immortal souls, which they have over all bodily substances and *perishable* natures. *Raleigh.*
To these purposes nothing can so much contribute as medals of undoubted authority not *perishable* by time, nor confined to any certain place. *Addison.*
It is princes greatest present felicity to reign in their subjects hearts; but these are too *perishable* to preserve their memories, which can only be done by the pens of faithful historians.
Human nature could not sustain the reflection of having all its schemes and expectations to determine with this frail and *perishable* composition of flesh and blood. *Rogers.*
Thrice has he seen the *perishable* kind
Of men decay. *Pope's Odyssey.*
PERISHABLENESS. *n. s.* [from *perishable*.] Liablefness to be destroyed; liablefness to decay.
Suppose an island separate from all commerce, but having nothing because of its commonfness and *perishablefness*, fit to supply the place of money; what reason could any have to enlarge his possessions beyond the use of his family. *Locke.*
PERISTALTICK. *adj.* [*περισταλτικ*; *peristaltique*, Fr.]
Peristaltick motion is that vermicular motion of the guts,

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which is made by the contraction of the spiral fibres, whereby the excrements are pressed downwards and voided. *Quincy.*
The *peristaltick* motion of the guts, and the continual expression of the fluids, will not suffer the least matter to be applied to one point the least instant. *Arbutnot.*
PERISTERION. *n. s.* The herb vervain. *Diels.*
PERISTYLE. *n. s.* [*peristyle*, Fr.] A circular range of pillars.
The Villa Gordiana had a *peristyle* of two hundred pillars. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
PERISYSTOLE. *n. s.* [*περι* and *συστολη*] The pause or interval betwixt the two motions of the heart or pulse; namely, that of the systole or contraction of the heart, and that of diastole or dilatation. *Diels.*
PERITONEUM. *n. s.* [*περιτονεον*; *peritone*, Fr.] This lies immediately under the muscles of the lower belly, and is a thin and soft membrane, which encloses all the bowels contained in the lower belly, covering all the inside of its cavity. *Diels.*
Wounds penetrating into the belly, are such as reach no farther inward than to the *peritoneum*. *Wifeman.*
PERJURE. *n. s.* [*perjurus*, Lat.] A perjured or forsworn person. A word not in use.
Hide thee, thou bloody hand,
Thou *perjure*, thou simular of virtue,
Thou art incestuous. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
To *PERJURE*. *v. a.* [*perjuro*, Lat.] To forswear; to taint with perjury. It is used with the reciprocal pronoun.
Who should be trusted now, when the right hand
Is *perjur'd* to the bottom. *Shakespeare.*
The law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for *perjured* persons. *1 Tim. i. 10.*
PERJURER. *n. s.* [from *perjure*.] One that swears falsely.
The common oath of the Scythians was by the sword and fire; for that they accounted those two special divine powers, which should work vengeance on the *perjurers*. *Spenser.*
PERJURY. *n. s.* [*perjurius*, Lat.] False oath.
My great father-in-law, renowned Warwick,
Cried aloud — What scourge for *perjury*
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence,
And to he vanish'd. *Shakespeare, Richard III.*
PERIWIG. *n. s.* [*peruigue*, Fr.] Adscitious hair; hair not natural, worn by way of ornament or concealment of baldness.
Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect yellow;
If that be all the difference in his love,
I'll get me such a colour'd *periwig*. *Shakespeare.*
It offends me to hear a robuscous *periwig*-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters, to split the ears of the groundlings. *Shakespeare.*
The sun's
Dishevel'd beams and scatter'd fires
Serve but for ladies *periwigs* and tires
In lovers fonnets. *Donne.*
Madam time, be ever bald,
I'll not thy *periwig* be call'd. *Cleveland.*
For vailing of their villages his highness and the marquis
bought each a *periwig*, somewhat to overshadow their foreheads. *Wotton.*
They used false hair or *periwigs*. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
From her own head Megara takes
A *periwig* of twisted snakes,
Which in the nicest fashion curl'd,
Like toupetts. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
To *PERIWIG*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To dress in false hair.
Now when the winter's keener breath began
To crystallize the Baltick ocean,
To glaze the lakes, to bridle up the floods,
And *periwig* with snow the bald-pate woods. *Sylvestre.*
Near the door an entrance gapes,
Crowded round with antick shapes,
Discord *periwig'd* with snakes,
See the dreadful strides she takes. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
PERIWINKLE. *n. s.*
1. A small shell fish; a kind of fish snail.
Thetis is represented by a lady of a brownish complexion, her hair dishevel'd about her shoulders, upon her head a coronet of *periwinkle* and ecalop shells. *Peacocks.*
2. A plant.
The *periwinkle* hath a flower cup, consisting of one leaf, that is divided into five long narrow segments: the flower also consists of one leaf, which expands in form of a salver, and is cut into five broad segments: the pointal, which arises from the center of the flower cup, becomes a fruit composed of two husks or pods, which contain oblong, cylindrical, furrowed seeds; to which may be added, that this plant shoots out many long creeping branches that strike out roots at their joints. *Miller.*
There are in use, for the prevention of the cramp, bands of green *periwinkle* tied about the calf of the leg. *Bacon.*
The common simples with us are comfrey, bugle, ladies mantle, and *periwinkle*. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
To *PERKE*.